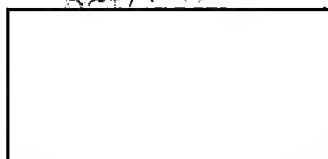


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25X1 RYBAT

** suggest additional DISSEM to DE (action)*

REF: SAIGON 11705 (IN 052411)

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1. COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY, EVANS AND NOVAK SEEM WELL DISPOSED TO [REDACTED] AND HAVE GOOD RECORD FOR DISCRETION WITH US. EVANS CREDITS MR. GOODWIN WITH HAVING TAUGHT THE JOURNALISTS' TRADE WHEN HE WAS A CUB REPORTER. NOVAK WAS [REDACTED] AT HEADQUARTERS PRIOR TO MID-EAST TRIP LAST YEAR AND PROCLAIMED HIMSELF MOST GRATEFUL. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, HE ADHERED SCRUPULOUSLY TO NO ATTRIBUTION GROUND RULES AND GENERALLY PLAYED GAME ACCORDING TO HOYLE.

2. WE APOLOGIZE FOR NOT ADVISING YOU FYI [REDACTED]

25X1

NOVAK LENGTHY BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. NOVAK WAS EFFUSIVELY [REDACTED]

25X1

SEEMED VERY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD [REDACTED]

HE MADE A POINT OF PRAISING) AND SEEMED GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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PAGE TWO

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TO US POLICY. BASIC THEME OF BRIEFING WAS THAT ~~XX~~ LEITMOTIF
BEHIND CURRENT, AND PAST DECADE'S, DEVELOPMENTS THROUGHOUT
INDOCHINA WAS EXPANSIONIST, AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS OF LAO DONG POLITBUREAU
IN HANOI. NOVAK DID NOT DISAGREE AND IN FACT VOICED RATHER
PERSONAL SENTIMENTS. AT ONE POINT HE OBSERVED THAT CURRENT
HEADLINES MADE MUCH MALIGNED DOMINO THEORY LOOK PRETTY GOOD.

3. GIVEN ABOVE, SUGGEST YOU GRANT NOVAK WHATEVER TIME
YOUR SCHEDULE PERMITS AND, SUBJECT TO USUAL RESTRICTIONS AND
GROUND RULES, ENGAGE IN WHATEVER SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION YOUR
PERSONAL INCLINATIONS DICTATE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A NOTE ON
ANY SUCH CONVERSATIONS FOR OUR RECORDS.

25X1

END OF MESSAGE

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PAGE THREE

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** Requested guidance for briefing Mr. Robert Novak, member of columnist team of Evans and Novak.

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